

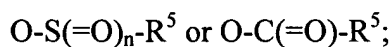
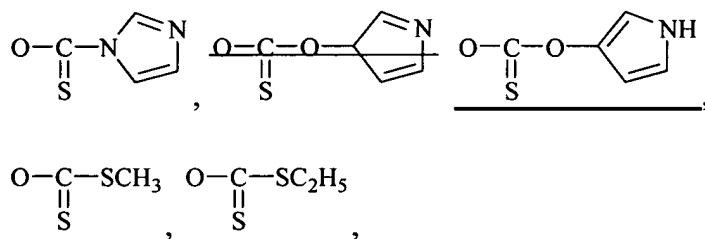
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a 2'-deoxy- β -L-nucleoside comprising the steps of:

- a) selectively activating a 2'-hydroxyl of a β -L-nucleoside to form an activated nucleoside substituted at the 2'-position with a substituent selected from the group consisting of the following:



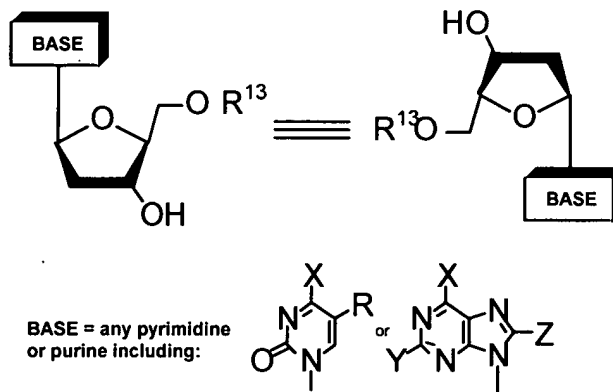
wherein n is 1 or 2 and R^5 is a hydrogen, an alkyl or aryl moiety; and

- b) reducing the product of step (a) with a reducing agent to form a 2'-deoxy-L-nucleoside.

Claim 2 The process of claim 1 wherein the reducing agent is tri-butyltin-hydride.

Claims 3 – 43 (Cancelled)

Claim 44 (currently amended): The process of claim 1, ~~3 or 8~~ wherein the ~~preparation of~~
2'-deoxy-β-L-nucleoside is a compound of the following formula (A):



(A)

wherein

X and Y are independently H, OH, OR, SH, SR¹, NH₂, NHR¹ or NR¹R²;

Z is hydrogen, halogen, CN or NH₂;

R is hydrogen, lower alkyl, aralkyl, halogen, NO₂, NH₂, NHR³, NR³R⁴, OH, OR³, SH, SR³, CN, CONH₂, CSNH₂, CO₂H, CO₂R³, CH₂CO₂H, CH₂CO₂R³, CH=CHR³, CH₂CH=CHR³ or C≡CR³;

R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are independently a lower alkyl, e.g., methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, and alkyl possessing 6 or less carbons, in cyclic, branched or straight chains, unsubstituted or substituted wherein the alkyl bears one, two, or more substituents, including but not limited to, amino, carboxyl, hydroxy and phenyl;

R¹³ is hydrogen, alkyl, acyl, phosphate (monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, or stabilized phosphate) or silyl; and

wherein the process further comprises the step of ~~comprising~~ condensing 2-O-acetyl-1,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl-β-L-ribofuranose with a purine or pyrimidine base, followed by

(a') selectively activating the 2'-OH via selective halogenation or thiocarbonylation at the 2'-OH group and

(b') reducing the product of step (a') with a reducing agent to obtain the 2'-deoxy- β -L-nucleoside of formula (A) subsequent reduction.

Claim 45 (Cancelled)

Claim 46 (Cancelled)

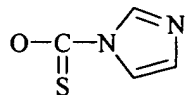
Claim 47 (currently amended): The process of claim ~~44~~ 1, 3 or 8 wherein the preparation of the compound of ~~the above~~ formula (A) further comprises ~~condensing a 2,3,5 tri O-protected L-xylose derivative followed by removal of the 2' OH group by either halogenation or thiocarbonylation procedure. The~~ the step of epimerizing the 3'-OH group is then of epimerized to obtain the desired 2'-deoxy- β -L-nucleosides.

Claims 48-55 (Cancelled).

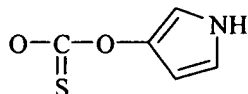
Claim 56 (new): The process of claim 1, wherein the β -L-nucleoside comprises a purine base.

Claim 57 (new): The process of claim 1, wherein the β -L-nucleoside comprises a pyrimidine base.

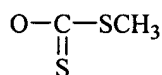
Claim 58 (new): The process of claim 1, wherein step a) comprises activating a 2'-hydroxyl of a β -L-nucleoside to form an activated nucleoside substituted at the 2'-position with



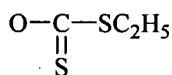
Claim 59 (new): The process of claim 1, wherein step a) comprises activating a 2'-hydroxyl of a β -L-nucleoside to form an activated nucleoside substituted at the 2'-position with



Claim 60 (new): The process of claim 1, wherein step a) comprises activating a 2'-hydroxyl of a β -L-nucleoside to form an activated nucleoside substituted at the 2'-position with



Claim 61 (new): The process of claim 1, wherein step a) comprises activating a 2'-hydroxyl of a β -L-nucleoside to form an activated nucleoside substituted at the 2'-position with



Claim 62 (new): The process of claim 1, wherein step a) comprises activating a 2'-hydroxyl of a β -L-nucleoside to form an activated nucleoside substituted at the 2'-position with $\text{O}-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{R}^5$.

Claim 63 (new): The process of claim 62, wherein R^5 is hydrogen.

Claim 64 (new): The process of claim 62, wherein R^5 is alkyl.

Claim 65 (new): The process of claim 62, wherein R^5 is aryl.

Claim 66 (new): The process of claim 44, wherein the base is a pyrimidine selected from the group consisting of uracil, thymine, cytosine, 2,4-dioxy-6-carboxy pyrimidine, 5-fluorocytosine, 5-methylcytosine, 6-azapyrimidine, 6-azacytosine, 2- and/or 4-mercaptopyrimidine, 5-halouracil, 5-fluorouracil, C^5 -alkylpyrimidines, C^5 -benzylpyrimidines, C^5 -halopyrimidines, C^5 -vinylpyrimidines, C^5 -acetylenic pyrimidine, C^5 -acyl pyrimidine, C^5 -amidopyrimidine, C^5 -cyanopyrimidine, C^5 -nitorpyrimidine, C^5 -aminopyrimidine, 5-azacytidinyl, and 5-azauracilyl.

Claim 67 (new): The process of claim 44, wherein the base is a purine selected from the group consisting of adenine, guanine, hypoxanthine, xanthine, N^6 -alkylpurines, N^6 -acylpurines (wherein acyl is $\text{C}(=\text{O})(\text{alkyl, alkylaryl, or arylalkyl})$), N^6 -benzylpurine, N^6 -halopurine, N^6 -vinylpurine, N^6 -acetylenic purine, N^6 -acyl purine, N^6 -hydroxyalkyl purine, N^6 -

thioalkyl purine, N²-alkylpurines, N²-alkyl-6-thiopurines, C⁵-hydroxyalkyl purine, N²-alkylpurines, 2,6, diaminopurine, and 6-chloropurine.